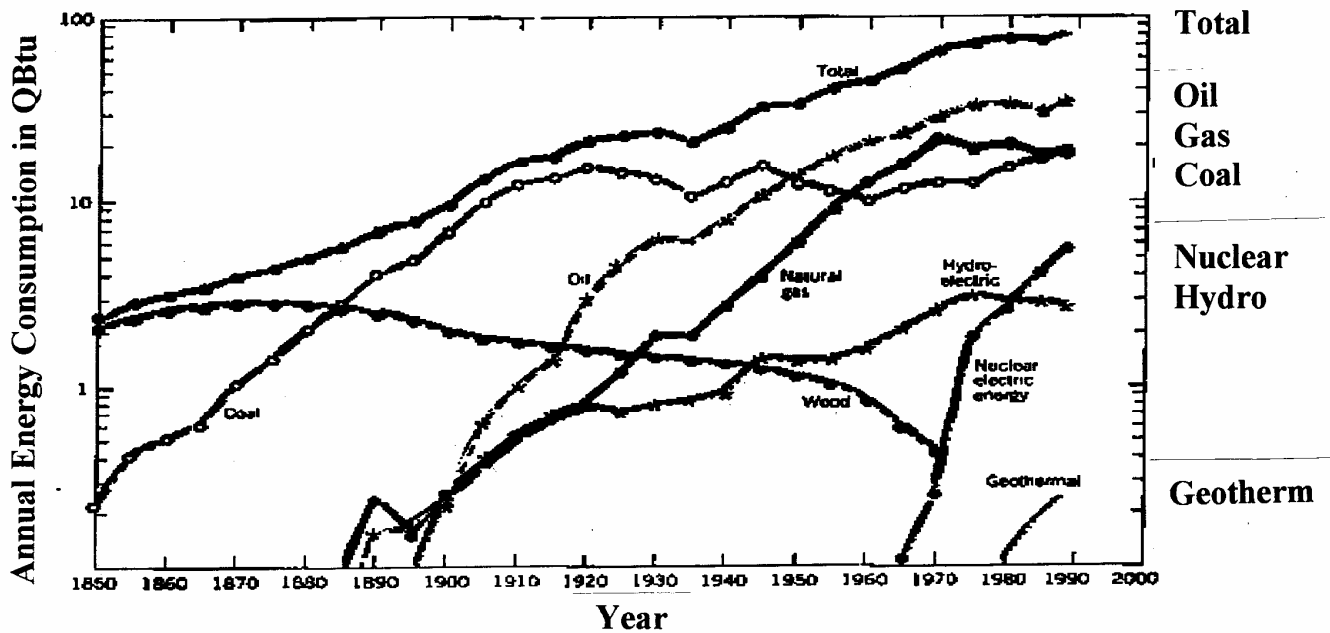


The History of Energy Consumption in the United States



Ref: *Energy and the Problems of a Technical Society* by Kraushaar and Ristinen

Vertical scale

Note that this is a log scale: that each major division corresponds to a factor of 10 increase. So the scale reads .1 .2 .3 .4 .5 .6 .7 .8 .9 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 20 30 40 50 60 70 80 90 100.

Vertical scale units

- 1 Btu** The energy required to raise the temperature of 1 pound of water 1 degree Fahrenheit.
- 1 QBtu** 10^{15} Btu = 1 quadrillion Btu

Total Energy Consumption (top curve)

Average growth rate = 2.5% per year.

Rule of 70: Doubling time = $70/\text{percentage growth per year} = 70/2.5 = 28$ years

Oil Consumption from 1900 to 1930

Average growth rate = 7.5% per year corresponding to a doubling time of $70/7.5 = 9.3$ years.